

**Attention:**

Some people learned to swim in a swimming pool, while others learned from a pond or a river. As a child, we often played in the Lumber River, where many of us learned to swim. Most people of my generation (X) were often baptized in the river.

**Need:**

Have you ever felt uncomfortable in doing something that you knew Christ was compelling you to do? Many great people of faith have been put in humbling positions to experience the power of God. Perhaps God is challenging you with a simple task to bring about great change. **Be willing to obey the voice of God, even if it sounds ridiculous.** The key takeaway here is obedience is better than sacrifice. Do not let the distractions of pride rob you of your blessings. One of the greatest facets in the Christian faith is surrender. This involves trusting God and relying on Him to see you through. When you have done all, you know to do, surrender. Some battles are not worth fighting. Many conditions we have would cease to exist if we would die to our flesh and be led of the Spirit of God. The greatest blessings in life come through surrender: let go, let God, and watch God work.

**Background:**

First Kings records the division of the kingdom; Second Kings records the collapse of the kingdom. Considered together, they open with King David and close with the king of Babylon. The throne on earth must be in tune with the throne in heaven if blessings come and benefits accrue to the people. The moral teaching is to show man his inability to rule himself and the world. Yet man's plan cannot overthrow God's purposes. Second Kings continues the saga of disobedience begun in 1 Kings, opening about 850 B.C. with the conclusion of Elijah's prophetic ministry in Israel and the beginning of the work of his successor, Elisha. Israel spiraled downward in faithlessness, ultimately being defeated, and dispersed by the Assyrians in 722. Judah, the southern kingdom, had several kings who trusted God and attempted reforms. But after many years of God's warnings through Isaiah and other prophets, Judah's sins were punished by Babylonian conquest starting in 605 and ultimately in the fall of Jerusalem in 586. The people were exiled to Babylon for seventy years, as prophesied by Jeremiah (Jer. 29:10). God remained faithful to his covenant despite his people's faithlessness. The author of 2 Kings is unknown.

The Syrians were a very dominant power in the region during this time. Word had got out that Israel was only successful as a nation because there was a man living in a part of Israel called Samaria, who could tell the king what the Syrians were doing in their bedrooms. **The prophet Elisha had become a threat to the Syrian kingdom.** In time, the Syrians would want to capture Elisha. The prophet was anointed and surrendered only to God.

Naaman was a mighty warrior in the Syrian army, but no matter how great he was, **he was a leper.** He had a condition that led to a sickness. **Leprosy was extremely contagious and often deadly.** No matter what, he had a sense of pride and arrogance about him. The Lord was using a simple task to show Naaman how big He was. After capturing a young girl from Israel who had become a slave, she gave Naaman a powerful piece of advice that would change his life. He needed to contact the man of God in Samaria named Elisha the prophet. He commanded him to go dip himself seven times in the Jordan River and he would be cleansed of his leprosy, but this was a humbling predicament for the mighty champion. At this time, **the Jordan River was very muddy**, but when he did, he was delivered.

## 1. God Uses Unexpected Voices (v. 6-8)?

- a. **What Causes Believers Not to Surrender?**
- b. Some are entertaining Satan with patterns of sin.
  - i. *“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another; so that you do not do the things that you wish.” (Galatians 5:16–17, NKJV).*
- c. The breakthrough didn’t begin with a prophet; it began with a servant girl (v. 3).
- d. We have to humble himself enough to listen.
  - i. *“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” (Jam 4:7).*

## 2. The Simplicity of a Rhema Word (v. 9-11).

- a. **How does a Christian surrender to the voice of the Holy Spirit?**
- b. A Rhema Word is a ‘Now’ Word—it is a spoken Word that aligns with God.
- c. Jesus gave Peter a Rhema Word that he had to surrender to.
  - i. *“But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.”” (Luk. 5:5).*
  - ii. Rhema is a command for action.
  - iii. The Holy Spirit fell upon Gentiles.
    1. *“And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, ‘John indeed baptized with water; but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’” (Acts 11:15–16, NKJV).*
- d. God uses uncomfortable conditions to bring about divine action (v. 11).
  - i. Naaman thought Elisha would perform a ritual rather than declare deliverance.

## 3. One Act of Obedience Can Save You From a Lifetime of Pain (v. 12-14).

- a. **What are the results of a surrendered life?**
  - i. *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33, NKJV).*
- b. God was not only healing Naaman’s sickness but also his pride.
  - i. There are more people that believe in you than not.
- c. You may have to risk being mocked/embarrassed when God is changing you.
  - i. *“And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, “You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! **If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.**”” (Matthew 27:39–40, NKJV).*
- d. Stop trying to figure out God’s power and when it’s easier to obey His Word.
  - i. *“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” (Psalm 46:10, NKJV).*